

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Flora & fauxna: Winning neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

The neologism challenge for **Week 1227** was to coin a new life form whose name — in the spirit of genetic diversity — had no two of the same letter. An animal called the **turdle** was described by many Losers, remarkably often as having orange fur. And of course there was the noisy, preening **trumper swan**.

4th place

**Phickle:** A food that's sometimes sweet and sometimes sour. (Selma Ellis, Rolling Meadows, Ill.)

3rd place

**Oldfish:** A critter that has managed to stay alive for a whole week since you brought it home from the pet store. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

2nd place and the book about old-fashioned sex aids:

**Ruskito:** An insect that not only sucks your blood, but hacks your DNA. (Frank Mann, Washington)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

**D.J.T. Rex:** A carnivorous biped distinguished by its diminutive forelimbs and backward vision. (Seth Tucker, Washington)

No's Ark: Honorable mentions

**Dogirafe:** The only canine that can fetch a Frisbee stuck in a tree. (Shani Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia, a First Offender)

**Peonay:** A flower that reacts to dog urine by emitting a mild electric charge. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

**Amorel:** A fungus that could potentially burst into a mushroom cloud. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Begona:** Flower used for breakup bouquets. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Crankodile:** A pale, emaciated reptile found lurking around meth labs. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

**Adolfin:** Mascot of the alt-right. (Frank Mann)

**Flounderp:** Dumbest of all the fish. Just look at it. (Nancy Della Rovere, Silver Spring)

**Gunviolets:** A kind of daisy that pushes up all over America. (Kevin Dopart)

**lowasp:** This cicada-like insect emerges in large, noisy swarms in four-year cycles. (Kevin Dopart)

**Kremling:** A Russian weasel noted for its tiny paws and orange fur. (David Peckarsky, Tucson)

**Mesquito:** A parasite that feeds off the neighbors' barbecues. (Duncan Stevens)

**Mikajoe:** A two-headed hyena that does a mating dance for three hours every morning. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

**Spiceroy:** A butterfly attracted to Mid-Atlantic bushes, now on the critically endangered list. (Kevin Dopart)

**U-tern:** Bird that flies north for the winter. (Mark Raffman)

**Vladger:** Known for gobbling up its neighbors and leaving a bad smell on anyone it contacts. (Mark Raffman)

**Yo'ma:** A flower that despite being exceptionally unattractive, malodorous and oversized, is pollinated near-constantly. (Seth Tucker)

**E. moji:** A bacterium manifesting itself in poop, soft-serve ice cream, and a face with stuck-out tongue and winking eye. (Dave Matuskey, Sacramento)

**Bergil:** A small, furry rodent that'll steal your heart. And your lungs. And your kidneys . . . (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Beaglo:** A dog that never leaves your side. Literally. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

**Escrow:** The avian species that best feathers its nest. (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

**Fells up:** A particularly aggressive species of orange tomcat. (Warren Tanabe)

**Pornbush:** An almost extinct species of foliage. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

**Ost-rich:** A bird that buried its head in the sand and found oil.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1231: TankaWanka 3: Haiku Plus Tu

**Trump got elected! The keys to this nation sit in his tiny hand. But will he be defeated by the stuff he has tweeted?**

It's time again for our own variation on the ancient Japanese poetic form called tanka, which is pretty much like haiku with two more lines tacked on, for a total of five still-little lines. The Invitye twists that make it a TankaWanka: a current-events subject and — sorry, but we can't get enough — rhyme.

This week: Write a TankaWanka about something that's been in the news lately. The poem must consist of five lines of 5, 7, 5, 7 and 7 syllables in that order. And at least two of the lines must rhyme, as in the example above by Willy Wanka, a.k.a. Gene Weingarten, The Style Invitational's Poet Laureate. You may add a title, perhaps quoting a news headline, if it helps the reader understand what you're talking about.

Submit entries at this website: [bit.ly/enter-invite-1231](http://bit.ly/enter-invite-1231) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Inkin' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy — one of the last few before we come out with a new design. Second place receives a prize we've given out at least twice before, one we've enjoyed at Loser social events, for obvious reasons: It's the **Basket Case Headband Hoop Game**, in which some ping-pong-ball-size foam basketballs are tossed into a net suspended over someone's noggin by the means of said highly dweeby Headband Hoop. Donated by Loser Nan Reiner.

**Other runners-up** win our new "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, June 19; results published July 9 (online July 6). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for the results is by Jesse Frankovich; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Tom Witte. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday).

**THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).



**You'll be the focus of the party with this week's second prize (dweeb not included).**

(John O'Byrne, Dublin)

**Pseudoryx:** A troublesome species of antelope, also known as fake gnus. (Kevin Dopart)

**Rodnstaph:** A virulent yet comforting bacterium. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

**Shyena:** An animal that only giggles, with its paw over its mouth. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Tse fly:** An African insect and principal transmitter of the somewhat-less-than-dreaded catnapping sickness. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

**Umble python:** A snake that only eats crow. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Fleamingo:** Imagine how far this bird could jump using two legs. (Ray Gallucci, Frederick, Md.)

**Wombath:** The latest pet craze — because everyone likes a wombath at the end of the day. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

**Funkgi:** Aromatic organisms often found on unwashed feet. (Bella Portillo, Silver Spring)

**Girhalf:** April's baby. (Mary Kappus, Washington)

**Hefalump:** A heavily wrinkled biped often seen in the company of bunnies. (David Garratt)

**Masturdon:** A lumbering, shaggy-haired mammal given to nocturnal bellows and preening shows of dominance. (Chris Doyle)

**Pacterium:** Organism that dies quickly in the absence of money. (Mark Raffman)

**Peach mint:** Some in Congress would like to send this herb over to the White House. (James Colten, Washington)

**Shampire:** All-talk, no-action monster. "I'm going to suck so much blood. It'll be beautiful." (Duncan Stevens)

**Sycolephant:** Large animal with a long, brown nose (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.; Tom Witte)

**Whombat:** Fussy, annoying creature unable to adapt to a changing world. (William Kennard, Arlington)

**Tydebola:** A virus that sterilizes itself. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

**Melonia:** A fleshy fruit that lives in a symbiotic relationship with off-your-gourds. (Kevin Dopart)

**Parsleigh:** What Gwyneth Paltrow leaves out for Santa. (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

**Muhel:** A rabbi who stubbornly refuses to perform circumcisions. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

**Dzykfjxqugh's brown palm civet:** A small, nocturnal Asian mammal named for the renowned zoologist Thomas Dzykfjxqugh. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, June 12: our contest for short descriptions of how a Creator came up with some creations. See [bit.ly/invite1230](http://bit.ly/invite1230).**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "GETTING OLD" By JAMES SAJDAK**
- 85 NFL advances
- 86 Actor Morales
- 89 They come from têtes
- 90 Sans opposite
- 91 Season, in a way
- 94 Got into the market
- 96 Gay song locale
- 98 Aromatic oils?
- 101 Pelts
- 103 Problem when using a well?
- 104 Sheltered side
- 105 1898 Dewey victory site
- 110 Airheads
- 111 Saw you can't discuss publicly?
- 114 Late, in Los Cabos
- 115 Farm layer
- 116 River to the Caspian
- 117 Evasive tactic
- 118 Guatemala girls: Abbr.
- 119 "Go on ..."
- 120 Hand off
- 121 Boundary marks
- 18 "Maid of Athens, \_\_\_ part": Byron
- 24 Bard's nightfall times
- 30 "\_\_\_ you to try it!"
- 32 Vamp Theda
- 33 Community coll. class
- 34 Tropical plant with large foliage
- 35 Join the cast of
- 36 Sassy
- 37 Gavel sounds
- 39 Adventurer
- 40 More recent
- 41 Professor \_\_\_
- 43 "Gross!"
- 45 Cabinet dept. formed under Carter
- 46 Lyre-playing emperor
- 48 Retreat in the face of
- 49 Wild party
- 50 Formal lament
- 52 Less polished
- 53 Game-ending call
- 56 Pilot's announcement: Abbr.
- 57 Do some serious bar-hopping
- 61 Scout carriers
- 62 Type
- 64 Energy source
- 65 Half a dance
- 66 Reality ad count
- 67 Lawrence Welk's upbeat
- 68 Approve
- 69 Set of cards
- 70 Island entertainment symbol
- 73 Mescal source
- 74 "Wow!"
- 75 Infinitesimal span, for short
- 77 PBS part: Abbr.
- 78 Piece of one's mind?
- 79 \_\_\_-Tass
- 81 Start
- 83 Prepares for guests
- 84 Classical theaters
- 87 Bill passer?
- 88 Swift's birthplace
- 92 Legal drama fig.
- 93 Lost moments
- 95 Citrus drinks
- 96 Serengeti families
- 97 Not upright
- 98 Diamond equipment
- 99 Co-Nobelists with Menachem
- 100 \_\_\_ Sketch
- 101 Some are epic
- 102 Article in Le Monde?
- 105 Curators' credentials, on a C.V.
- 106 "\_\_\_ dash of ...": recipe words
- 107 Request for Alpo?
- 108 Feverish feeling
- 109 Itches
- 112 Quarterback Dawson
- 113 Novelist Levin

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 11:** This year you flip between your light and airy self to a more serious and practical person. Often these changes surprise those around you. If you are single, someone you meet may have difficulty handling both sides of your personality. The person who accepts you for everything you are will be the right choice for you. If you are attached, the two of you often jump from situation to situation quickly. You could find Capricorn boring.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Many of your loved ones have the expectation that you will take the lead if a problem ensues. A family member will express how relieved they are when you pitch in and do your best to handle these matters, as will be the case right now.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You have a lot to listen to. You could have a strong reaction to what people say. Detach; only then will you be able to gain a broader perspective. A friend triggers your imagination as you make plans.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Someone around you, perhaps an older person, inspires you to take a leap of faith. A new friend can't seem to get enough of you. Get in touch with what you are feeling. Setting boundaries will be important.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Defer to a loved one and share more of what you are feeling. This person could be more serious than you are, but they have the same bottom line. You simply have different solutions.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You may need to add more relaxation to your day. You throw yourself into whatever you do 100 percent. Every so often, it is wise to take a day off from the hectic pace.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your imagination emerges and delights those around you. A loved one makes it clear that they can't get enough of you. You willingly make an adjustment to spend more time with a child.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Invite a friend or loved one over. The two of you always find something to do. You might have a

special piece of news to share, which is likely to catch this person off guard.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your words make a difference to others. You are willing to be more direct. A child or loved one puts you on a pedestal, and vice versa. Be careful — one of you easily could fall off.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Be aware of the costs of continuing as you have been. You easily could deceive yourself about some of the risks of taking action. You have someone in your life who can be difficult, yet they know how to anchor you in reality.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You probably need to juggle different concerns. You are willing

to make changes, but if you hesitate or take your time, the situation might not play out exactly as you'd like.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You might want to do some reflecting. You love spending time with your friends, but you'll need to take care of other matters first. Get some feedback if you have a very strong reaction to a higher-up or to a situation involving a control game.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Join a friend for brunch and enjoy catching up on news. Remain sensitive toward a loved one who means a lot to you. This person counts on your caring perspective and listens to your feedback.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

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